



NEWS RELEASE

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QUALITY WATER HEADED TO COLON THANKS IN PART TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Lincoln, Neb., May 12, 2005—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded a \$64,000 loan and \$500,000 grant to the Lower Platte North Natural Resource District of Wahoo, Neb. Funds will build a new water supply line from the City of Wahoo to the Village of Colon and replace water mains in high domestic water demand areas. Water improvements will ensure a dependable supply of quality drinking water to Colon's 138 rural residents.

"Colon's water quality problems were overwhelming the Village's capabilities," stated John Miyoshi, general manager of Lower Platte North Natural Resource District. "USDA Rural Development funds are providing a means to guarantee a good supply of water for the Village. We greatly appreciate the partnership which formed between the Village of Colon, City of Wahoo, USDA Rural Development, JEO Engineering and the Lower Platte North Natural Resource District to solve this problem."

"Connecting Colon to the City of Wahoo's water supply will not only help with water quantity issues being experienced but will also eliminate the high arsenic and uranium levels the Village presently faces in their water," stated Janice Stopak, community programs specialist for USDA Rural Development. "USDA Rural Development is pleased to assist Colon in addressing their water issues."

Community Development Block Grant of \$250,000 from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development comprises the balance of the funding needed for the \$814,000 water project.

USDA funds were derived from the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant program and Water and Waste Disposal Loan program. Loan terms are 40 years at 4.250 percent interest.

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